

AUDITOR RULES OUT CHANCE TO BUY \$15,000 BUSES FOR CITY AS \$5,500 EACH

Torrance lost an opportunity to acquire 15 slightly used buses reasonably valued at \$15,000 each at a cost of \$5,500 each when members of the City Council indicated that they would not agree to a proposal submitted by the Transportation subcommittee of the Citizens Committee for purchase of the equipment, seven of which would have been sold immediately for \$7,500 each.

Logan Cotton, Redondo Beach accountant who acts as Torrance City Auditor, advised against the deal which would have permitted the city to carry on a needed expansion of the Torrance transportation system to include lines to all cities in Southwestern L.A. county.

At a conference previous to the meeting with Cotton, Council members declared that they felt it would be a "good deal" for the city to buy the buses, big Mack's like those in service in Los Angeles, which have been in "moth balls" since 1941. They are in Honolulu and were taken out of service and stored at the outbreak of the war.

However, agents said they would have to withdraw the offer and sell the buses elsewhere since the Council failed to agree last Wednesday to take an option on the equipment.

They could have been had without obligating the general fund, it was said, but Cotton told the Council "it cannot consider anticipated net revenue from the bus department in considering the obligation to the General fund."

Asked by a committee member if that meant that court fines, building permit fees and other income from departments could be so considered, Cotton replied that they could not. He further declared he was not so certain the Council could obligate the City in the matter even if the General fund can stand it.

Committee members contended that the City had considered anticipated revenue from the bus departments and other departments in the past, and declared it was "just like taxes," but Cotton would not be swayed, and his attitude changed the minds of the Council members who formerly had thought the deal a good one.

A complete financial picture of the deal was presented, prepared by William Zoeller, Certified Public Accountant and member of the committee.

The buses had been driven less than 10,000 miles when taken out of service.

The immediate objective of the transportation expansion would be establishment of a new line from Moneta along

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COUNTY PLANNING UNIT GIVES TORRANCE CITY POPULATION OF 15,673

The population of Torrance on Jan. 1, 1948, will be 15,673, according to the estimate of the Regional Planning Commission of Los Angeles County in a report received last week by Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The increase of 5,523 over the official United States census of 1940 which showed the population to be 9,950 represents a 56 per cent growth in the seven year period. There was also a 16 per cent increase of 2,513 over the U. S. census bureau estimate as of February, 1947.

The increase in dwelling units during the last seven years here was estimated at 1,612, from 3,155 units in 1940 to 4,767 as of October, 1947, a growth of 53 per cent.

This increase in dwellings does not take into consideration the more than 1000 units now under construction in Torrance which will be occupied during 1948 nor the many units which are planned.

Population of Los Angeles will total 1,939,657 by next January, according to the estimate. This was an increase of 38,372 over the Oct. 1 estimate, 61,846 higher than a year ago, and 435,380 above the 1940 federal census.

Total County population by 1948, will reach 3,908,477, the report said, as compared with 2,785,663 seven years ago. Unincorporated county territory had a population of 444,741 in 1940, and commission statisticians figure there will be 732,206 persons on hand by the first of next month.

All cities in the county had a population of 2,340,902 in 1940. By next year this figure will be 3,176,271, the commission reported.

In the last quarterly report the commission counted 632,067 dwelling units in Los Angeles

Holiday Arrives; Herald Sets Week's Schedule

Torrance banks, Chamber of Commerce and the City Hall and post office, will close for the Christmas holiday, Dec. 25. All will reopen Friday for business as usual except the Chamber of Commerce which will remain closed.

Although the post office will be closed, all parcels arriving at the postoffice up to early Christmas morning and all special delivery mail will be delivered on Christmas day, according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner.

To give employees a four-day holiday, the Torrance Herald offices will be closed on Dec. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Since the New Year's day edition of the Herald will be published Tuesday instead of on Thursday of next week, classified advertising will close at noon Monday, Dec. 29.

Society and club news must have reached the editorial offices by Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. to assure publication in the New Year's edition.

All advertisers and those wishing to make news announcements are asked to cooperate in following the holiday schedule.

HIGH SCHOOL TO PRESENT SOCIAL NIGHT DEC. 27

The first of a series of regular Saturday night social recreational activities for Torrance Junior High and High School students will be given Saturday, Dec. 27 from 7:30 to 11 p.m. in the High School gymnasium.

Sponsored by the YWCA, the YMCA, the P.T.A., and the faculty, the program will include dancing, refreshments, ping pong, games, and movies. Students will be admitted free upon presentation of their student activities cards, but all guests must be registered in the counselor's office for an attendance permit.

Vernet Is Promoted

Appointment of Herbert A. Vernet Jr. of Torrance as lieutenant colonel in the California National Guard was announced by Major General Curtis D. O'Sullivan, adjutant general of California.

Colonel Vernet is assigned to Los Angeles headquarters, special troops, 40th Infantry Division as headquarters commandant.

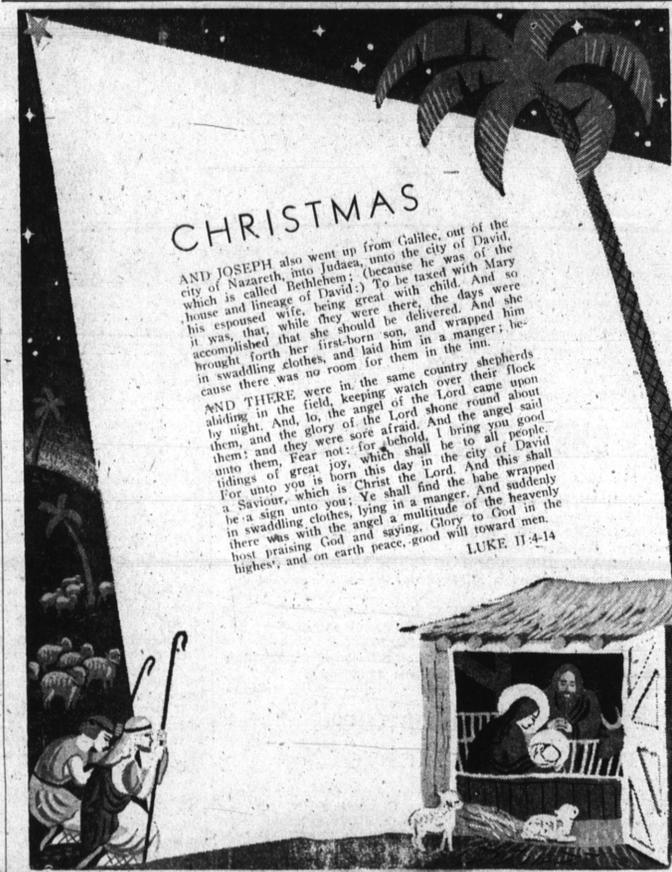
He ended World War II as a lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Reserve. His home address is 1547 W. 204th street.

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New West Basin Division Wins County Approval

Except for the reformation of a precinct which was split in the original plan, the Committee for West Basin Water's suggestion for the division of the new district is being favorably considered, Raymond V. Darby, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, stated this week.

Division of the newly formed West Basin Municipal Water District into five parts had been held over by the supervisors pending certification of incorporation from the Secretary of State.

The District Committee's original plan included these divisions: 1—Lomita, Palos Verdes Estates, Palos Verdes Hills and Watson territory; 2—El Segundo and Wiseburn; 3—Redondo Beach, Clifton, El Nido and Victoria; 4—Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach; 5—Lennox, Lawndale, Moneta, Norman and Howard.

A suggestion for the five divisions of the district was brought forth recently by the Registrar of Voters and the suggestion failed to find the favor of the Best Basin Committee.

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the Registrar, in accordance with provisions of the Municipal Water District Act of 1911, the Registrar's scheme would make each of the five cities the focal point of each division, lumping a proportionate amount of county unincorporated territory around each.

On the other hand, the committee's plan divides the district geographically keeping adjacent communities with mutual interests within the same division, wherever possible.

The committee's scheme puts the cities of Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach within the same division.



SIPPIN' MILK THROUGH A STRAW . . . Kindergarten pupils at Fern Avenue School enjoy bottles of milk provided for them regularly by the Fern Avenue Parent-Teachers Association. (Torrance Herald Photo).

H. W. CREEGER TO TAKE OVER AMERICAN-STANDARD MANAGEMENT ON JAN. 1

H. W. Creeger, manager of the San Pablo, Calif., pottery of the American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corporation, will assume his position as manager of the new Torrance works as of Jan. 1.

This announcement was made by Henry M. Reed Jr., vice president and general manager of manufacturing, who said:

"The Torrance works, now under construction, is expected to be in operation by midyear. It will be the second of American-Standard's potteries to be located on the west coast. The company's eastern potteries are situated at Tiffin, Ohio, Kokomo, Ind. and Trenton, N. J.

"The new works will materially increase American-Standard's present output of genuine vitreous china plumbing fixtures, for which there is a sustaining demand. Torrance is part of a west coast development which also includes a new American-Standard brass plant to be located at Richmond, Calif., lying adjacent to San Pablo in the San Francisco district. This plant should also be in operation within six months."

Creeger spent his entire career in potteries devoted to the manufacture of genuine vitreous china plumbing fixtures. He studied business administration at Heidelberg Business College in Tiffin, Ohio, the town where he was born, and in 1910 he obtained employment as a bookkeeper in the Great Western Pottery Company, Tiffin, a predecessor company of American-Standard.

Creeger rose to cost accountant, cashier, chief clerk and assistant manager. In 1927 he was promoted to manager of the San Pablo works.

During the past 20 years Creeger was active in many civic enterprises. He lived in Richmond and was a director of the Chamber of Commerce and a trustee of the Union High School there. He was active in Red Cross work and was president of both the Richmond Community Chest and the Richmond War Chest. He is also a past president of the Richmond Rotary Club. Creeger is married and has three children.

Succeeding him as manager of the San Pablo works is A. S. Adcock, the present superintendent.

Weather Report

TEMPERATURE		
Dec.	Maximum	Minimum
17	64	46
18	64	39
19	72	41
20	63	38
21	63	48

PRECIPITATION		
Date	Storm Total (Season)	Last Year
20	Trace	1.89
21	.08	1.77

Prepare Helicopter Landings

Representatives of Los Angeles Airways, helicopter mail carriers under contract to the Postoffice Department, were in conference here Monday with Postmaster C. Earl Conner with reference to landing sites for the helicopters in Torrance.

Service will start on the route which will include Torrance on Jan. 10, it has been announced.

Several sites for temporary landing facilities were being considered by the company. They include: Columbia Steel Co. land now vacant at Western avenue and Torrance boulevard; property east of the city dump, on Sepulveda boulevard; C.C.M.O. property near Crenshaw boulevard and Torrance boulevard; property between Plaza del Amo and the Santa Fe tracks near Arlington avenue.

Until permanent sites can be obtained, it was said, any area of sufficient size where traffic, high wires or children playing will not interfere with the craft, will be satisfactory, it was said.

Pickup and delivery of mail will be timed to meet Torrance carrier deliveries in the morning and dispatches from Los Angeles Municipal Airport in the evenings, thus assuring most rapid carrying of the mail, according to Bell.

City Attorney C. Douglas Smith Begins New Job

Learning the ins and outs of his new position, C. Douglas Smith, prominent attorney named by the City Council as temporary City Attorney of Torrance, this week commented:

"Torrance is my home now, and Torrance comes first." Former district attorney of Bannock, Idaho, Smith was a practicing attorney in Long Beach for 25 years. He has lived in this city at 911 Sartori avenue for several months, and is well known to many Torrance residents.

His appointment is subject to the regular Civil Service examination, it was pointed out. Regular residence requirements must be fulfilled, however, under the ordinance.

The Civil Service ordinance requires one year's residence in Torrance before making "application" for the Civil Service examination. How long the temporary appointment will hold was a matter of conjecture among legal authorities yesterday.

The job was vacated when Judge Otto B. Willett resigned to take the appointment as City Judge following the selection of Judge John A. Shidler as Justice of the Peace of the local township.

RICHARD ALLEN DIES OF INJURY

Struck and fatally injured last Dec. 14 at Redondo boulevard in Redondo Beach, Richard Allen, 23, of 15634 Frimona avenue, died in Harbor General hospital Dec. 19.

The driver of the car which struck him was not held, officers reported.



WOMAN ATTACKED AFTER CAR STALLS SUNDAY EVENING

After her car stalled in a mudhole near the Pueblo Sunday night, an elderly woman was beaten and raped by three unidentified Mexicans, according to police reports.

Unable to give an accurate description of her attackers, the woman said she had previously let off a woman companion. While attempting to get her car started, the men entered the vehicle and also robbed her.

FOES OF HOUSEBREAKING ORDINANCE OF CITY FORM LINES FOR LEGAL BATTLE

As the Torrance Herald went to press with its Christmas day edition, early Tuesday, forces seeking to prevent the adoption of the so-called "housebreaking" ordinance of the City of Torrance were preparing to present a vigorous protest at the regular Council meeting Tuesday night.

Dicalite Plant Suffers Loss in Big Fire Here

A heater explosion was believed responsible for a fire which destroyed a machine shop of the Dicalite plant here Friday night.

The 80 by 30 foot structure and considerable machinery and welding equipment were lost in the blaze with an estimated damage of \$25,000. Firemen from the Walteria substation of the Torrance department answered the call and were aided later by a truck from the main station in Torrance. The plant is located just across the Torrance boundary in Rolling Hills.

Firemen threw out 750 feet of hose to a two-inch pipeline serving the plant in combating the blaze, but the 18-pound pressure was of little effect.

PLANS ORDERED FOR NEW SCHOOL

Los Angeles Board of Education has appointed architects to prepare plans and specifications for construction of a classroom and auditorium building at Century Park school in Gardena.

Ross Montgomery was retained to perform the work for the Century Park school, the job to cost an estimated \$160,000.

SCHOOLS UNIFICATION NEEDED TO BRING TAX REDUCTION HERE - WOOD

While every penny of the school taxes, which appeared on tax bills for the present year is justified, Torrance taxpayers may have a great hand in bringing down the level through unification of the elementary and high schools within the boundaries of Torrance, according to Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance City Board of Education.

The separation of Torrance from Redondo Union High School District so that unification can be accomplished in Torrance probably will occur in January of next year, Dr. Wood said.

"The State Board of Education meets Jan. 9," the Board president declared, "and it will be possible to advertise and

McCANDLESS GETS HIGH POST WITH STATE SCHOOLS

Harry P. McCandless, Redondo Beach city school superintendent, was named assistant division chief, school administration, in the State Department of Education today.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Roy Simpson made the appointment, and said McCandless would supervise state administrative services to school districts. President of the California Association of Public School Business Officials, southern section, McCandless has held the Redondo Beach post since 1935.



THE JOY OF LEARNING . . . Floy Boyland, first grade teacher at Fern Avenue School, sits in a small group of her pupils teaching them to read. She goes around the table, giving each youngster a chance to read a few lines, assisting them with difficult words. (Torrance Herald Photo).

hold the election on Jan. 23, 1948. Present plans are for the polling place to be at Torrance Elementary School.

This is the culmination of a program started many months ago by the citizens of Torrance with the assistance of the Torrance Herald, and the office of the County Superintendent of Schools.

"The Board of Trustees of Redondo Union High School District is cooperating in this project to help Torrance achieve a unified school district. This action is particularly significant in fact as of July 1, 1948."

Dr. Wood pointed out that the \$1.40 tax levy for Torrance City School District (grades kindergarten through 8th) was made necessary by the lack of State aid for schools. This money went to Los Angeles City School District this year, for last year's average daily attendance. The State school support funds are based on the a.d.a. of the previous year, and the Torrance district did not exist last year, being a part of Los Angeles district.

Estimates are that Torrance will get from \$166,000 to \$175,000 in State school support funds next year, on the basis of this year's average daily attendance. Actual attendance now is approaching the 2,000 figure, and it is expected that State support will be on a basis of \$90 per pupil in average daily attendance.

The statutory limit for elementary school is 90 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, and the 50 cent increase voted (one year) was made necessary by the tremendous growth of Torrance this year plus the fact that Torrance lost its State support for the first year.

While Redondo Union High School District won the right to levy a \$1.00 tax rate, it levied \$845 per \$100.

El Camino Junior College District voted to levy a 20-cent rate for five years, using 25 cents for a building fund and this is in lieu of a bond issue since the building fund

The City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 7:45 p.m.

The proposed ordinance, claimed to be in violation of the Bill of Rights, or Amendment No. 4 to the Constitution of the United States, would permit any person claiming to be "annoyed" by an alleged intoxicated person to call the police and permit the police to force entry to the private dwelling of the alleged intoxicated person, and incarcerate the alleged intoxicated person pending filing of a formal complaint.

Mayor J. Hugh Sherley, Jr., told the Torrance Herald on Monday that he was going to refer the ordinance to City Attorney C. Douglas Smith for his opinion. The City Attorney said yesterday that he had not as yet seen the ordinance which was drafted by City Judge Otto B. Willett, then City Attorney, and would not care to render an opinion until after he had studied the instrument.

The formal complaint requires that the person complaining appear before a magistrate, in this case the City Judge of Torrance, and secure the signature of the judge on a warrant to be served on the accused person.

According to the Bill of Rights, "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and

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